



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## **Watershed Signage Project Team (GA) Receives 2002 Coastal America Spirit Award**

**WHAT:** The Watershed Signage Project Team will be presented the **2002 Coastal America Spirit Award**. The Project raised awareness about watersheds through road signs, educational programs and stewardship opportunities for the public.

**WHO: Receiving awards:** US Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Highway Administration; GA Department of Natural Resources; US Army Corps of Engineers; GA Department of Transportation; GA Department of Corrections; and US Department of Agriculture.

Team members: Constance Alexander, Jennifer Gardner, Steven Blackburn and Neil Burns, USEPA; Alex Levy and David Grachen and Timothy Barkley, FHWA; David Studstill, Buddy Gratton, Donnie Gibbs, Will Griffin, Abbe Hctor, William Horton, and Karlene Barron, GA Dept. of Transportation; Mitch Hamilton and Marilyn Colson, GA Dept. of Corrections; Frank Carubba and Harold Harbert, GA Dept. of Natural Resources; Dennis Barnett, US Army Corps of Engineers.

### **Photo opportunities and interviews on site.**

**WHERE:** In conjunction with Southeast Watershed Forum and Southern States Environmental Conference, Mississippi Coastal Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi, MS

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 23, 2003

**BACKGROUND:** The Coastal America Partnership created the awards program in 1997 in an effort to recognize outstanding efforts to protect, preserve and restore coastal resources. The Coastal America Spirit Award recognizes teams whose efforts demonstrate the Coastal America spirit of teamwork and are poised to address our challenging coastal issues but have not yet matured or are limited in scope.

The purpose of the project is to raise awareness about watersheds through road signs, to create an education program in the communities, and to create stewardship opportunities for the public. There are several signage programs across the United States, however, this is the only project comprised of educational and stewardship components in the Southeast. The project has expanded to include watershed signs on hiking, biking, and canoe trails, in kiosks in Welcome Centers, and in fish and wildlife reserves, military bases, and federal and state lands in the southeast. In addition, it is creating watershed information brochures, fact sheets, web page, and display board for communities. There was 100% participation from community leaders/members whom fully embraced this opportunity of having road signs.